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NSC BRIEFING

26 October 1954

**FRENCH REACTION TO AMERICAN
"CRASH" PROGRAM FOR VIETNAM**

I. French greatly upset by US decision to go forward with program to support Diem before crisis solved.

A. La Chambre in Paris asserts unilateral distribution of US aid to Vietnam would be violation of agreement with General Smith that provided for tripartite committees.

B. ☐ Says charge that French not giving all-out backing to Diem is slur on French honor. But only last week French Deputy Commissioner General indicated French agreement support Diem made only in deference US wishes.

37
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D. Obvious he saw disguised
Cochinchina protectorate
as best bet for French.

1. La Chambre insists Diem should make
his peace with Binh.

A. Goes on to say Diem has lost
all support, even Catholics;
adds Buu Hoi is most popular
person in Vietnam because he
"not well known."

B. Not bothered by Buu Hoi's
leftist tendencies, but if
Buu Hoi moves in, La
Chambre, Tam and Binh Xuyen
gangster, Bay Vien, should
be in cabinet as "strong
men."

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